

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS CHAMPAGNE
 STEC
 TAYLOR
 PITKIN
 CONOVER

OTHERS PRESENT:**REPRESENTING ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

DR. RONALD HEACOCK, PRESIDENT
DR. PAUL MAZUR, VICE-PRESIDENT
WILLIAM LONG, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JOSEPH CUTSHALL-KING, VICE PRESIDENT, ACC FOUNDATION
KEVIN RIELLY, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
ANN MARIE SOMMA, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS
KAREN MOSHER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE &
FISCAL SERVICES

NICOLE LIVINGSTON, DEPUTY CLERK

SUPERVISOR McDEVITT

REPRESENTING WASHINGTON COUNTY:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KEVIN HAYES, ADMINISTRATOR
DEBRA PREHODA, CLERK OF THE BOARD
PHYLLIS COOPER, TREASURER

JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

The joint meeting of Warren and Washington Counties Community College Committees was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Bishop Conference Center at Adirondack Community College (ACC).

Agendas were distributed to all Committee members, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Commencing the agenda review, Dr. Ronald Heacock, ACC President, stated that the ACC Board of Trustees had established general budget guidelines. Referencing the current economic situation, Dr. Heacock declared that the current budgetary and fiscal situation resulted in a level of uncertainty which was unprecedented in his career as a public official.

Regarding the Governor's Proposal, Dr. Heacock stated that the ACC budget would be reduced by 5% or approximately \$250,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year. For the next fiscal year, he said, a 15% reduction in State Aid was proposed, which included the aforementioned 5% reduction, for an estimated equivalent of \$415 per Full Time Enrollment (FTE). He stated the Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) had agreed to the reductions and four year College Presidents were in favor of the legislation which allowed them to set tuition rates, giving SUNY more authority. Unfortunately, the latter yields no benefits for Community Colleges and therefore funding for capital projects was still undefined. He apprised that SUNY Chancellors had been notified that the Community College's could not support a 15% reduction in funding, and as a result would lobby the State for a more acceptable 5% reduction.

Addressing enrollment, Dr. Heacock asserted that ACC had experienced significant growth with an increase of slightly over 10% for the year. He stated that due to growing unemployment more individuals had considered educational advancement. As a result, he stated, classroom space was full, the use of conference rooms as classrooms was necessary, class sizes had increased to the maximum allowable numbers, and both revenues and expenditures had increased. He informed of

the resultant increase of \$400,000 in revenue for the year.

Dr. Heacock expounded that the current fiscal uncertainty significantly challenged the budget process and he stated that he had met with the ACC Board to craft a plan of action relative to the budget. He apprised that the funding sources for ACC consisted of local sponsors, the State, students (44% of bill), and Chargebacks from Saratoga County which were expected to decrease. He stated that ACC would proceed in a fiscally vigilant manner to limit spending, trim the budget where feasible, and to hold current expenditure levels by controlling and/or absorbing additional personnel costs relative to increased enrollment. The unprecedented enrollment increase, he said, evidenced a fundamental shift in education in the United States as a result of the economic recession. Dr. Heacock stated that he expected enrollment to remain high following economic recovery as Community Colleges would remain less expensive than four year colleges. He reported that all of the growth in higher education was in Community College's.

Full classrooms, according to Dr. Heacock, would raise the issue of capping enrollment. He noted that ACC enrolled some of the most academically vulnerable students in the population and large class sizes often compromised success rates. He emphasized the importance of retention for which smaller class sizes were key and that enrollment and class size were not only a matter of economics, as the quality of education and retention were also of primary consideration.

Responding to an inquiry from Mr. Taylor, Dr. Heacock apprised of a recent tour of the Global Foundries facility, as well as Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC). Mr. Pitkin asked if opportunities in nanotechnology, which included shared programming, had been discussed and Dr. Heacock stated that such programs were cost prohibitive, and he noted that expenses to build the Malta site which included clean rooms and clean energy totaled approximately \$17 million. In terms of shared technical programming, he said that he had spoken to HVCC and found that those programs were full much like ACC's nursing program. Dr. Heacock reported that he had also had a discussion with Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) regarding the possibility of a shared (one-plus-one) program relative to engineering. He said an engineering program was in place for General Electric (GE), and that Rensselaer Polytechnic Institution (RPI) was typically the college of choice for this caliber of student. Furthermore, he said, the results of the engineering management consultant study showed that ACC lacked the critical mass to support such a program. He informed of a discussion with AMD, who hired electrical engineers, computer scientists, and chemists, and they required 5 to 10 years of experience in chip fabrication work. At a minimum, he said AMG would require an Associates degree.

A discussion ensued with regard to the challenged or remedial student population, as well as leasing additional space and Dr. Heacock noted that classes offered at the Wilton Campus of ACC, which was leased space, would often not reach minimum class sizes. As a result, he said, ACC was considering additional online courses. He also noted that the College was in the process of seeking a viable, long term location in Washington County and he cautioned of the financial risk involved in the leasing of space. Concurrent with the space issue, was the issue of finding qualified instructors, he said. At present, he stated, there were no students being turned away and the issue would be reviewed.

With regard to partnering with the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (WSWHE BOCES) to offer remedial students a venue for which to prepare for entrance into Community College academic programs, Kevin Hayes, Administrator for Washington County, noted that enrollment in high schools would drop over the next decade thereby decreasing the pool of high school graduates.

A discussion ensued and Dr. Heacock apprised that approximately 90% of students received some form of financial aid and he noted that ACC worked to set tuition levels based on financial aid eligibility statistics, and he pointed out that books presented an additional financial burden for students. Other factors, such as the average time to complete a program in the midst of increasing academic requirements, were also considered.

In closing, Dr. Heacock stated that he would keep the Committee apprised of developments in the New York State Legislature.

Privilege of the floor was extended to William Long, Vice President for Administrative Services who distributed copies of the Agenda, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Addressing the Capital Improvement Plan, Mr. Long stated that SUNY approval had been received for the plans listed on the report. He stated that the New Facility Master Plan was awaiting Attorney review and approval. He stated that the development of the Request for Proposal (RFP) was underway.

The next Agenda item, Mr. Long stated, was the Capital Chargeback Balance, which he reported to be \$850,000 for Warren County. He noted that the State and Local share from chargebacks was \$634,507.50 and was covered in the account.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Phyllis Cooper, Washington County Treasurer, who distributed copies of her reports which included the combined balance sheets for the ACC Capital Construction Projects and for the Chargeback Fund. She noted there were currently six active projects as follows:

- Restroom Access, Safety and Improvements - For the conversion of the College restrooms for compliance with the Americans' with Disabilities Act, funded by local chargebacks and New York State Aid, to be closed upon receipt of outstanding receivables from State.
- Renovations of Eisenhart Hall - Pending closure upon the receipt of Federal and State payments of outstanding revenues, and \$3,892.64 due from Warren County.
- Technology - For infrastructure improvements: card access system for buildings, upgrade to the administrative computer system, and the addition of smart classrooms.
- Higher Education Construction - For the construction of the Higher Education Center.
- Capital Reinvestment Model - For the College's participation with the SUNY Reinvestment Model.
- Master Plan & Various Improvements - For the new Facilities Master Plan which included parking lot lighting, fire alarm system and elevator upgrades, and roof replacement at Warren Hall.

Pursuant to discussion, Mr. Long stated that if ACC received the necessary resolutions from the Counties regarding financing, the State would provide funding.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Joe Cutshall-King, Vice President of the ACC Foundation, who cited Tom Ross, ACC alumni, for his outstanding fundraising efforts that resulted in exceeding their goal. He extended gratitude to Buckley Bryan, ACC Board of Directors and key contributor, Dr. Heacock, Mr. Long and Dr. Mazur for their support in meeting the Kresge Foundation goal. Mr. Cutshall-King recounted the challenging nature of fundraising especially in a suffering economy; therefore, he said, the effort for which pledges exceeded the goal could be deemed miraculous. He reported that the building expenses and the Bond Anticipation Notices (BAN) would be paid off, and he asserted that this could not have been accomplished without the BAN. Mr. Champagne thanked

Mr. Cutshall-King for the measurable efforts and leadership in steering the project to its goal.

Mrs. Hall apprised of a recommendation that the Counties send a letter in support of Federal funding for the improvement of the Culinary Arts Program of ACC, to Senator Schumer. JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, noted that a letter had been sent by Warren County.

Karen Mosher, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Administrative Services, announced that the next joint meeting of the Warren and Washington Counties Community College Committees would be held on April 20, 2010 from 1:00 p.m to 3:30 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Community College Committee, on motion by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Pitkin, Mr. Champagne adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist